

WHAT'S ON

Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2016
 Organiser: Bangla Academy
 Venue: Bangla Academy premises & Suhrawardi Udyan
 Date: February 1-29
 Time: 3-8pm & 11am-8pm (Fri & Sat)

Solo Art Exhibition
 Censored Image
 Artist: Wakilur Rahman
 Venue: Kalakanda
 Date: Feb 3-23
 Time: 12-6pm

Felicitation to Shaheen Samad
 Organiser: Aamra Surjomukhi
 Venue: A.S. Mahmud Auditorium, The Daily Star Centre
 Date: February 26
 Time: 6pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Unknown Spirit
 Artist: Esperanza Romero (Spain)
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos, H-115, Lane-6, New Dohs, Mohakhali
 Date: February 20-29
 Time: 12-8pm

Solo Paining Exhibition
 Title: Of a Poetic Vision of Life
 Artist: Ranjit Das
 Venue: Shilpangan
 Date: February 26-March 12
 Time: 12pm-8pm



National Film Award 2014 list leaked "Brihonnola" nabs Best Picture, ZR Anjan Best Director

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Ahead of its official announcement expected in the coming week, the names of a number of National Film Award 2014 winners in the final draft were revealed by a source in the information ministry. Murad Parvez's "Brihonnola", starring Ferdous and Sohana Saba gets Best Picture, while Zahidur Rahman Anjan wins Best Director for "Meghmalla" (based on an Akhtaruzzaman Elius' short story "Raincoat"). Syed Hasan Imam and Rani Sarkar are jointly getting the Lifetime Achievement Award. Ferdous's performance in "Ek cup Cha" wins him the Best Actor Award, while Moushumi and Bidya Sinha

Mim are sharing Best Actress, for "Tarkata" and "Jonaki'r Alo" respectively. Dr. Ejaz wins Best Supporting Actor ("Tarkata") while Chitralkha Guha wins Best Supporting Actress ("Jonaki'r Alo"). The inimitable James wins his first National Award of Best Male Playback, for "Ashche Desha Ashche" in the film "Desha - The Leader", which also got veteran Tariq Anam Khan the award for Best Actor in a Negative Role. Momtaz's song "Nishipokkhi" in the film "Nekabborer Mohaproyan" wins Best Female Playback. Misha Sawdagar, the quintessential bad guy of Dhallywood, won Best Actor in a Comic Role, for "Olpo Olpo Premer Golpo".



A still from "Brihonnola."

EKUSHEY ON MIND

Music, films and poetry connect generations to Language Movement

FAHMIM FERDOUS
 1952 was 64 years ago; today's youth is somewhere around the third generation of the Language Movement activists and martyrs. Still, the spirit of the day -- now recognised as the International Mother Language Day by UNESCO -- lives on. How? It is said that one of the biggest powers of any form of art is that it can encapsulate the feelings and thoughts of a person or a community of a particular time, and carry it on for as long as it exists. "Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano" is undoubtedly the most iconic piece of creativity on the Language movement. Originally written as a poem by Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, it was

first put to tune by Abdul Latif, and later given its current tune by Altaf Mahmud. Abdul Latif's "Ora Amar Mukher Bhasha Kaira Nite Chae", Shamsuddin Ahmed's "Rashtrobhasha Andolon Korili Re Bangalee" and the first song on Ekushey composed by Mosharrufuddin Ahmed on February 24, 1952, "Mrittuke Jara Tuchcho Korilo Bhasha Bachabar Torey" -- remain just a few of the many powerful songs written and composed at that time. Due to the sensitive nature of the movement and censorship worries in the political context of the country, it was difficult to make a film on it. Young Zahir Raihan, an active participant of the Language

Movement, dodged all of it to direct a striking symbolic depiction of the country's struggles through his film "Jibon Theke Neya"; probhat-feri and other observations of February 21 were also captured on film for the first time through it. The use of songs like "Karar Oi Louho-Kopat", "E Khacha Bhangbo Ami Kemon Kore" and recitals of Tagore's "Udoyer Pothe Shuni Kar Bani" made for one of the most complete films on Bangladesh's spirit of liberation. Countless poems have been written against the backdrop of the movement; from the most prolific of wordsmiths to the average amateur, almost everyone who has seriously practiced poetry has writ-

ten something on Ekushey. Mahbub-ul Alam Chowdhury's "Kandte Ashini Fashir Dabi Niye Esechi" was one of the first poems written on the movement. It was banned by then government, and the publisher of the poem was arrested. "Bornomala, Amar Dukhini Bornomala" and "February 1969" by Shamsur Rahman, "Amake Ki Maloy Debe Dao" by Nirmalendu Goon, "Chithi" by Abu Zafar Obaidullah and "Shobhyotar Monibondhe" by Syed Shamsul Haq are the other poems that have stood the test of time, and still evoke the spirit of the movement that earned us our right to talk, sing and write in Bangla.

EKUSHEY PADAK 2015

"Music is the greatest source of my power, devotion and liberation"
 ...Pt. Amaresh Roy Chowdhury

ZAHANGIR ALOM
 Eminent Bangladeshi classical vocalist Pandit Amaresh Roy Chowdhury was born in a zamindar family of Faridpur in 1928. Chowdhury started learning classical music at the age of eight from Pt. Sudhir Lal Chakrabarty, Pt. Harihar Shukla and Sangeetacharya Tarapada Chakrabarty, Nikhil Chandra Sen (Nazrul Sangeet) and Anath Nath Basu (Thumri). The maestro has a legendary music career of eight decades and was awarded Ekushey Padak yesterday by the Government of Bangladesh, for his lifelong contribution to classical music. "I am overwhelmed to receive the highest civilian award. I am extremely grateful to our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as she has kindly bestowed me with such an honour. I have been trying to nurture, practice, perform and diffuse classical music throughout my entire life. I deeply feel music as the greatest source of my power, devotion and liberation," said a very humble Pandit over phone. "I am blessed with the love and appreciation of legendary music maestros including Dagar Brothers, Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, Ustad Amir Khan and Pandit Ravi Shankar. The highest honour



that I received yesterday is not only mine; all the people who love and work for promoting classical music, are recipients of this award," said the Pandit. "I think the practice of classical music has increased qualitatively and quantitatively. Younger artistes are showing much interest in the genre. Everyone must know one thing: if you learn classical music, you can master all types of music. I am extremely happy that the world's largest classical music festival by Bengal Foundation is held in Dhaka; at the same time, I feel that alongside many world-renowned classical music maestros, we, Bangladeshi vocalists, could also represent our country. I am confident to perform on the same stage, but we haven't been approached yet," said Amaresh Roy Chowdhury. For his contribution to classical music, the maestro has also received other awards including Sanket Sangskritik Goshthi Award (1981), Ustad Gul Mohammad Memorial Award by Sangeet Academy (1982), Gunijan Sammanona by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (1997), National Leader AHM Kamaruzzaman Sammanona Smarok (2010) and Rabindra Padak by Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad (2014).

"Music requires a lifetime of devotion"
 ...Shaheen Samad

ZAHANGIR ALOM
 One of the torchbearers of Nazrul Sangeet in Bangladesh, Shaheen Samad has an illustrious music career that spans over five decades. Trained in classical music by Ustad Ram Gopal, Ustad Fazlul Haque and Ustad Ful Mohammad, she attended BAFA and later on, Chhayanaut where she found Sheikh Lutfur Rahman, Sohrab Hossain and Anjali Roy as mentors. At one point, she also trained under Dr. Sanjida Khatun, one of the troupe leaders of Mukti Sangrami Shilpi Sangstha. For her lifetime contribution to music, Shaheen Samad has been honoured with the country's highest civilian award Ekushey Padak this year. She with other recipients received the award yesterday (February 20). "I am elated and touched, as many of my fans are congratulating me over the phone, SMS and social media. I feel extremely lucky to receive the award during my lifetime, rather than posthumously," said Shaheen Samad. Shaheen Samad vividly remembers the turbulent days of 1971; on a truck with fellow members of Bangladesh Mukti Sangrami Shilpi Sangstha -- Lubna Mariam, Naila Zaman, Bipul Bhattacharjee, Mahmudur Rahman



Benu, Dalia Nausheen, Debu Chowdhury and others -- she went from camp to camp, singing to refugees and Freedom Fighters to boost their morale. "This was our contribution to the War. The sight of Freedom Fighters being moved to tears while listening to these songs is something I'll never forget," shared the artiste. "Musical practice requires a lifetime of devotion and perseverance. I think I am yet to learn more to perform better. The present generation of artistes are prone to their ornamentation rather than their melodic practice," added Shaheen Samad. Thanks to her personal initiative, a collection of 14 timeless songs in an album "Rupantor-er Gaan" was brought out by Laser Vision on Pahela Baishakh, 2011. Shaheen Samad and Enamul Hoque recorded songs for the album. The singer urged both government and private institutions to permanently preserve the songs that stirred our nation during the War of Liberation. She also wants a live performance of those moving songs on TV channels, at least one song in a week and thus encompassing the entire year and not only in the months of December, February and March.

"Grateful to the government for this award"
 ... Amanul Haq

SAURAV DEY
 Amanul Haq began his career as a dancer in 1959 under the guidance of Ghonoshyam Anjariya in Karachi, Pakistan. A prominent name in the Bangladeshi cultural scene, he is an award-winning-music director too, and an adept writer. He received the Ekushey Padak 2015 yesterday, for his outstanding contribution to the country's dance scene. TDS talked to him about his reaction and more. Excerpts: "I am honoured, I am elated, and I am grateful that the government nominated me for such an honour. Definitely, this is one of the greatest achievements of my life, and it will help me keep going further." "I worked for the country throughout my life, and never expected anything in return -- not even any recognition. Now at this stage of my life, this recognition makes me look back at my previous works. It is a great inspiration for me and for other Bangladeshi artistes as well. Not



only does this award recognise our contribution to the cultural field, but it also motivates us to keep up with good work." "I made dance-dramas on the life of labourers and the oppressed people during pre-liberation era. After the Liberation War, I continued my work and focused on this nation." "I have nothing more to wish for, except work for the country till my last breath. My new project focuses on the history of this land. I hope to start working on a dance drama based on Mahasthangarh from March." Asked what he thinks about the new generations of dancers, the veteran artiste said, "I think younger generation have an urge to rise to fame very early. As a result they come here and quit to move to television. Dance is an expensive art as there are outlays required for music arrangement, set designs, and costumes. Moreover, it requires hard work and devotion which many don't have."



Three-day Barno Utsab in Barisal

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal
 Charukala Barisal, a fine arts institute in Barisal, arranged a three-day Barno Utsab at Aswini Kumar Hall in the city marking the International Mother Language Day. Language movement veteran Md. Yousuf Kalu inaugurated the programme on February 19. Altaf Hossain, president of Charukala Barisal, and Sculptor

Aminul Hasan Litu attended the programme among others. The event featured a workshop with the participation of children of Charukala Barisal. In addition, children from different intuitions joined the event. On the closing day of the event, children will bring out a colourful procession from Sadar Road of the city to Aswani Kumar Hall.

Mahbuba Rahman releases "Kaaljoyee Gaan"

A CORRESPONDENT
 Noted singer Mahbuba Rahman has released an album featuring some of her most popular songs. The launching ceremony of the album, titled "Kaaljoyee Gaan", took place at Dhaka Club in the capital. Eminent singer Syed Abdul Hadi, chief guest at the ceremony, launched the album along with other distinguished guests including noted lyricist and composer Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul and noted singer Khurshid Alam. Laser Vision's managing director Mazharul Islam and chairman AKM Arifur Rahman also attended the programme, hosted by Rumana Islam.

The album features 20 memorable tracks by Mahbuba Rahman in two CDs. The songs have been penned and composed by Khan Ataur Rahman, Ustad

Momtaz Ali Khan, poet Jasimuddin, Kalu Shah Fakir and Felu Sheikh. Some of the notable songs are "Amar Mon Bhalo Na", "Amar

Golar Haar", "Tomake Bhalobashi", "Oi Chaand", "Jalaile Je Agun Jolchhe", and "Amar Na Bola Katha".



Though Mahbuba Rahman has not been in the music scene for a long time, she captured many hearts in the 1950s and 1960s with her golden voice. She made her mark in radio, television and films and received accolades, particularly for her debut playback in the first Bangla film made in erstwhile East Pakistan, "Mukh O Mukhosh" (1956). In recognition to her contribution as an artiste, she received the Ekushey Padak (1998) and the Golden Jubilee Film Audience award (2006) for Best Singer.